

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1 to 13. (cancelled)

14. (previously amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule which specifically hybridizes under conditions of high stringency to a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein said conditions of high stringency comprise hybridization at 65°C in a 6x SSC buffer;

(c) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that exhibits at least about 95% nucleotide sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(d) an isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

16. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 15, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule encodes the amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3.

17. (previously amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid molecule specifically hybridizes under said conditions of high stringency to a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

18. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the conditions of high stringency comprise washes of 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C.

19. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the conditions of high stringency comprise washes of 0.2x SSPE, 0.2% SDS at 65°C.

20. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the isolated nucleic acid exhibits at least about 98% nucleotide sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1.

21. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the isolated nucleic acid exhibits at least about 99% nucleotide sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1.

22. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid molecule consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

24. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises nucleotides 1 to 1194 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

25. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein the nucleic acid molecule consists of nucleotides 1 to 1194 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

26. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to one or more expression control elements.

27. (previously amended) A vector comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule which specifically hybridizes under conditions of high stringency to a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein said conditions of high stringency comprise hybridization at 65°C in a 6x SSC buffer;

(c) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that exhibits at least about 95% nucleotide sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(d) an isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.

28. (previously presented) The vector of claim 27 wherein the vector is selected from the group consisting of pCR2.1, pMC1neo, pSG5, pcDNA1, pcDNA1amp, pcDNA3, pCR3.1, EBO-pSV2-neo, pBPV-1, pdBPV-MMTneo(342-12), pRSVgpt, pRSVneo and pSV2-dhfr.

29. (previously presented) A host cell transformed to contain the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 14.

30. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 27.

31. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 29, wherein said host cell is selected from the group consisting of prokaryotic and eukaryotic host cells.

32. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 31, wherein the eukaryotic host cell is selected from the group consisting of L cells L-M(TK-), L cells L-M, HEK293, Raji, CV-1, COS-1, COS-7, CHO-K1, 3T3, NIH/3T3, HeLa, C127I, BS-C-1, MRC-5, *Xenopus* melanophores and *Xenopus* oocytes.

33. (previously presented) The host cell of claim 31, wherein the prokaryotic host cell is *E. coli*.

34. (previously amended) A method for producing a polypeptide comprising of culturing a host cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule under conditions in which the protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule is expressed, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

(b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule which specifically hybridizes under conditions of high stringency to a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein said conditions of high stringency comprise hybridization at 65°C in a 6x SSC buffer;

(c) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that exhibits at least about 95% nucleotide sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(d) an isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO: 1.